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Mr. C. H. GRANDGENT (Boston) called attention to a type of *ër* (as in 'bird,' 'word') in which the *ë* and the *r* are formed simultaneously, the tip of the tongue being raised to the *r* position as soon as the *ë* is begun. He had reason to believe that this was the usual pronunciation of *ër* in Pennsylvania and the West, and he thought that *ar* and *ær* were sometimes formed in a similar way.

Prof. KARSTEN being unavoidably absent, his paper was omitted; and Prof. THOMAS LOGIE, of Williams College, read a paper on

## 2. *The Phonology of the Patois of Cachy.*

The debate was opened by Dr. J. E. MATZKE, of Johns Hopkins:—

It is impossible to speak too highly of the importance of dialect study as throwing light on the successive steps of the development of a language. The history of Parisian French, for instance, presents many difficult problems, some of which can, doubtless, be solved by an attentive examination of the dialect of Cachy and neighboring places. Hence, such papers as the present one are useful in the highest degree. I shall now speak of a few points in which I disagree with Dr. LOGIE. I cannot believe, as he seems to, that the great variety of modern French dialects proves the existence of a corresponding variety in Old French and Vulgar Latin. This supposition is contrary to the views of GASTON PARIS and PAUL MEYER, and seems to me to be entirely without foundation. Moreover, I do not approve of the old-fashioned division of a language into so many fixed dialects: the only really scientific method is, I think, the construction of maps for each linguistic phenomenon, as is done by SUCHIER in GRÖBER'S 'Grundriss.' The confusion between *an* and *en* probably never existed in Picard; the first traces of it in French are found in the 'Chanson de Roland.' The change of *u*, of *eu* is not a "diphthongization," as Dr. LOGIE called it, but a simple lowering of a rounded front vowel. When Dr. LOGIE speaks, further on, of "drawing back the upper teeth," he must have forgotten, for the moment, the construction of the human head: what we have is merely a change from a labio-dental to a purely labial sound. As for the *l mouillée*, perhaps it lost its palatal quality in Picard in the thirteenth century; it is impossible to tell from the spellings.

Prof. A. M. ELLIOTT said:—

Consonantal assimilation, such as Dr. LOGIE mentions, is a very common thing in French. As an example of the pronunciation of *en* as *in*, we may cite the form *Dint-du-Midi*, which is often heard near Lake Geneva. The forms from *-ellu* suggest an interesting question: has the modern development of *-ellu* passed over into Normandy,

just as the older development did? The reduction of *étoile* to *étéle*. The wide *i*, which is generally regarded as quite foreign to French, is found in some French dialects. It is commoner now about Paris than it was a few years ago. I think it is not improbable that the French language will, in time, develop a complete system of wide vowels.

Prof. A. F. CHAMBERLAIN said that wide *i* was common in Canadian French, its prevalence being probably due to English influence.

Dr. J. E. MATZKE wished to add a few words to his former remarks:—

It seems to me that the form *mangi* may be due to the regular operation of BARTSCH's law. As for *avou*, *savou*, they are doubtless derived from *avoir*, *savoir*+*ou*, *sou* (= *habutum*, *saputum*).

Prof. LOGIE expressed the opinion that if the form *mangi* were due to the operation of BARTSCH's law, we should find some traces of the development in the manuscripts.

The meeting was then adjourned.

In the evening following the fifth session, the members of the Association were most hospitably entertained at the house of Prof. A. MELVILLE BELL (1525 Thirty-fifth St.), where a charming social reception was held in accordance with the announcement in the program. A delightful opportunity was offered here for becoming personally acquainted with many of the leading literary and scientific people of Washington.

## SIXTH SESSION.

The Association met for its **Sixth Session** at ten o'clock, A. M. (December 31), with Prof. KENT in the Chair.

The Chairman. The Association will come to order. I announce, as the first contribution for this morning, the paper that was postponed from the Fourth Session entitled: "The Law Language in England from Edward I. (A.D. 1274) to Henry VIII. (A.D. 1509)," by Prof. B. F. O'CONNOR (Columbia College).

Discussion was opened on this paper by Prof. A. M. ELLIOTT (Johns Hopkins University), who said:—

Mr. President, I desire to make a few remarks on this paper, though it belongs almost as much in the province of the English as that of